

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 05 2004

OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James K. Falbo et al.  
Assignee: Numerical Technologies, Inc.  
Title: SHAPE-BASED GEOMETRY ENGINE TO PERFORM SMOOTHING  
AND OTHER LAYOUT BEAUTIFICATION OPERATIONS  
Serial No.: 10/040,055 File Date: December 31, 2001  
Examiner: Yelena Rossoshek Art Unit: 2825  
Docket No.: NTI-030(757)

-----  
Date: January 5, 2004

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Initial Comments

Claims 1-54 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-55 are objected to because of a numbering error. Claims 1-10, 12-32, 34-36, and 44-54 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,523,162 (Agrawal). Claims 11, 33, 37-43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 22-55 are amended in this paper to correct the numbering error. Claims 44, 46, and 51 are further amended to clarify certain limitations.